

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending, with claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 being independent. Applicant has added claims 41 and 42. Support for these claims may be found in the specification at Figs. 4, 5A-5C, Figs. 6A and 6B, Figs. 7A-7D, and claims 1 and 14. No new matter has been added.

Based on the Examiner's description of Groups I and II, it appears that claim 40 should have been classified within Group I because claim 40 is directed to a method of joining a first ceramic component to a second ceramic component. Applicant requests correction of the Examiner's classification and proceeds under the assumption that claim 40 should have been classified within Group I.

Restriction Requirement

Applicant elects the invention of Group I (claims 1-26, and 40-42) drawn to a method of making a ceramic component. This election is made without traverse. However, as a point of clarification, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's argument that the product of Group II can be made by joining without heating. In particular, claim 27 recites that the silver-based composition is "brazed to the surfaces of the first and second ceramic components." As discussed in the specification, brazing is a process in which joined components are heated to a temperature sufficient to melt the silver-based composition. See the specification at page 9, lines 29-31.

Election of Species Requirement

Applicant elects Species 2 within Group I (claims 14-26, 40, and 41). It is believed that claims 14 and 40 are generic to Species 1 and 2.

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Applicant : Alan M. Meier et al.
Serial No. : 10/052,249
Filed : January 23, 2002
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Attorney's Docket No.: 08215-477001 / P05-026396

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$110 for the one-month extension of time. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 15, 2003

Diana DiBerardino
Diana DiBerardino
Reg. No. 45,653

Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331

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